

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 06677 271223Z

45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 NIC-01 EUR-25 NEA-10

SCS-03 SCA-01 DRC-01 /162 W
----- 077088

R 271046Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6011
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
JCRC NKP
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 6677

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PHOUN SIPRASEUTH RE POWS AND MIAS

1. SINCE PHOUN SIPRASEUTH, SECOND RANKING LPF DELEGATE NOW IN CHARGE OF LPF REPRESENTATION, IS LEAVING FOR SAM NEUA SEPTEMBER 27, DCM CALLED ON HIM LATE AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 26 TO REITERATE USG VIEWPOINT ON POW/MIA ISSUE. DCM EMPHASIZED AGAIN IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO EARLY CLARIFICATION OF FATE OF AMERICAN POWS AND MIAS IN LAOS AND ASKED HIM TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE TO LPF CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN SAM NEUA. PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, THE SENIOR LPF NEGOTIATOR, RETURNED TO SAM NEUA ON SEPTEMBER 20.

2. AFTER EXPRESSING OUR SATISFACTION WITH THE CONCLUSION OF RLG-LPF NEGOTIATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 14, DCM CALLED PHOUN'S ATTENTION TO ARTICLE 18 OF THE PROTOCOL DEALING WITH THE RETURN OF SOLDIERS AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL CAPTURED AND IMPRISONED DURING THE WAR AND WITH THE SEARCH FOR PERSONS MISSING DURING THE CONFLICT. DCM POINTED OUT THAT PHOUMI VONGVICHIT HAD ASSURED US IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS THAT ONCE PROTOCOL NEGOTIATIONS WERE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 06677 271223Z

COMPLETED, LPF WOULD SCRUPULOUSLY CARRY OUT PROVISIONS. DCM

POINTED OUT THAT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 18(C) OF THE PROTOCOL THE TWO LAO PARTIES WERE BOUND TO PROVIDE INFORMATION WITHIN 15 TO 30 DAYS, COUNTING FROM THE DATE OF SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOL, ON THOSE CAPTURED AND IMPRISONED AS WELL AS A LIST OF NAMES OF THOSE WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY. SINCE POWS HRDLICKA AND DEBRUIN HAD BEEN SEEN AS POWS BUT WERE NOT TURNED OVER TO US AUTHORITIES IN HANOI LAST MARCH WHEN 9 AMERICANS CAPTURED IN LAOS WERE RELEASED, WE WOULD NOW EXPECT CLARIFICATION OF THEIR FATE IN LINE WITH PARAGRAPH 18(C) OF PROTOCOL. DCM SAID THAT BY 14 OCTOBER (I.E. 30 DAYS AFTER PROTOCOL SIGNATURE) WE WOULD HOPE TO HAVE WORD ON AMERICAN POWS STILL HELD BY LPF AND THOSE WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY.

3. DCM THEN EXPLAINED OUR KEEN DISAPPOINTMENT WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH US AUTHORITIES ON MIAS AND THAT WE SINCERELY HOPED LPF WOULD ADOPT A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH TOWARDS THIS PROBLEM. DCM SUGGESTED THAT ATTITUDE LPF ADOPT ON POW/MIA PROBLEM COULD DEEPLY INFLUENCE FUTURE USG-LPF RELATIONS AND WOULD ALSO HAVE IMPACT ON US CONGRESS WHOSE MEMBERS ARE SUBJECTED TO GREAT PRESSURES BY FAMILIES OF MIAS AND WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR VOTING FUNDS FOR LAOS.

4. TO FACILITATE LPF TASK, DCM POINTED OUT THAT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 18(E) THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA), MAY REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM THE ICC ON GATHERING OF INFORMATION ON MIAS IF BOTH SIDES AGREE. DCM SAID THAT USG WOULD BE HAPPY TO HELP BOTH JCIA AND ICC IN SEARCH FOR MIAS.

5. PHOUN REPLIED THAT LPF IS DETERMINED TO IMPLEMENT ALL PROVISIONS OF THE PROTOCOL, INCLUDING THOSE SECTIONS DEALING WITH POWS AND MIAS. HE SAID THAT EXCEPT FOR EMMET KAY, LPF HELD NO OTHER AMERICAN POWS. ON MIAS, LPF CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN GATHERING INFORMATION BUT PHOUN WARNED THAT OF THE MORE THAN 320 NAMES WE HAD PROVIDED TO LPF ON AMERICAN MIAS IN LAOS, LPF WOULD PROBABLY ONLY COME UP WITH INFORMATION ON "A FEEBLE PERCENTAGE". HE AGREED TO CONVEY TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE OUR PRESSING CONCERN ON THIS SUBJECT AS WELL AS OUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP JCIA AND ICC IN THEIR WORK ON MIAS.

6. COMMENT: WE EXPECT JCIA TO BE ACTIVATED WITHIN NEXT 10 DAYS. IT IS RECALLED THAT PROTOCOL HAS DESIGNATED JCIA AS BODY WHICH IS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 06677 271223Z

TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM BOTH SIDES ON POWS AND MIAS. IF JCIA IS ACTIVATED WITHIN EXPECTED TIME FRAME AND PROVISIONS OF PROTOCOL ARE RESPECTED, WE SHOULD RECEIVE FIRST INFORMATION ON POWS AND THOSE WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY BY OCTOBER 14.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI06677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS WHITEHOUSE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973095/aaaaadep.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Nov-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <21-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH PHOUN SIPRASEUTH RE POWS AND MIAS
TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005